

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

MCT-01 IO-13 /072 W

-----162123Z 057726 /70

R 161100Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6070

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1752

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TS

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT RELEASES ORGANIZERS OF FEBRUARY 24
DEMONSTRATION

REF: TUNIS 1567

1. SEMI-INDEPENDENT DAILY "LE TEMPS" PUBLISHED UPI ITEM MARCH 15 REPORTING THAT GOT HAD RELEASED 13 PERSONS HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE FEBRUARY 24 DEMONSTRATION. AS REPORTED REFTEL, THESE INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO GO ON TRIAL WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28 BUT TRIALS WERE CANCELED WITHOUT EXPLANATION. GOT HAS NOT PUBLICLY CONFIRMED STORY. UPI REPORT SAID 13 COULD BE SUBJECT TO "ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINE," WHICH COULD MEAN EXPULSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OR TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP STIPENDS, OR NOTHING AT ALL.

2. RELEASE WITHOUT TRIAL OF ORGANIZERS OF VIOLENT PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION IS A SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS GOT POLICY. OBSERVERS WILL CERTAINLY LINK THIS OVER TO INTERIOR MINISTER BELKHODJA'S RECENT SPEECHES CALLING FOR TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF YOUTH AND INTERPRET IT AS CONCILIATORY GESTURE.

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3 IT APPEARS THAT BELKHODJA IS BEHIND THIS GOT ACTION, TAKEN TO CREATE THE MOST FAVORABLE CLIMATE POSSIBLE FOR SPECIAL CONGRESS OF THE GENERAL UNION OF TUNISIAN STUDENTS (UGET) SLATED FOR THE END OF MARCH. ALSO, RADICALS ON CAMPUS HAD BEGUN TO REKINDLE UNIVERSITY STRIKE LAST WEEK OVER CONTINUED DETENTION OF THE PERSONS ACCUSED OF ORGANIZING THE FEBRUARY 24 DEMONSTRATION AND GOVERN-

MENT APPARENTLY DOES NOT WANT TO CREATE ANY UNNECESSARY TROUBLE FOR ITSELF AT THIS JUNCTURE. WE CAN PRESUME THAT PRESIDENT PERSONALLY APPROVED RELEASE OF DETAINEES IN VIEW OF ISSUE'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPORTANCE.

4. WHILE BELKHODJA HAS BROUGHT TEMPORARY PEACE TO UNIVERSITY WITH RELEASE OF THE 13 ACCUSED, FAILURE TO PROSECUTE ORGANIZERS OF VIOLENT DEMONSTRATION BORDERS ON PERMISSIVENESS AND MAY ENCOURAGE RADICAL ACTIVISTS TO MAKE BOLDER MOVES.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS01752
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770090-0877
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770352/aaaabtfx.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 77 TUNIS 1567
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3086403
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT RELEASES ORGANIZERS OF FEBRUARY 24 DEMONSTRATION
TAGS: PINT, PINS, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8dbc09b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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